Pol. 5 Pamph. Vol 96.

A

LETTER

FROM

Sir *J. B–ks* to *W. B–n*, Esq;

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Sir *J. B--ks* to *W. B--n*, Eſq; *S.O.*

By Birth an ENGLISHMAN;

But Unnaturaliz'd and turn'd SWEDE, Architect, Hydrographer, and Gardiner; and for a little Time M----- of the P----- P-----:

CONCERNING

A late CONTRACT, that was endeavour'd to be Eſtabliſh'd by a certain Bold Officer in *Sweden*, to the utter Undoing of the Board of Works in that Kingdom.

Done from the Original Copy at STOCKHOLM, 1718.

Magnis tamen excidit auſis. Ovid.

In ENGLISH *thus*:

You'll find the Thing will not be done
With Ignorance and Face alone:
No; tho' you've purchas'd to your Name,
In Hiſtory ſo great a Fame.
That all Affronts do ſtill give Place
To your Impenetrable Face:
That makes your Way through all Affairs,
As Pigs, through Hedges, creep with theirs.
Yet, as 'tis counterfeit and Braſs,
You muſt not think 'twill always paſs.
For all Impoſtors, when they're known,
Are paſt their Labour, and Undone. *Hud.*

N. B. *The Learned* Euſt——Bud——l, *Eſq*; *intends ſpeedily to write a full and true Account to Sir* J——Baker *of the whole Proceedings at* Shafton, *touching the late Election in that Corporation*; *as alſo of Mr. Juſtice* Toomer *the Tinman's Advancement to be Clerk of the Works at* Wincheſter, *for the better Government of the Town of* Shaftsbury, *of which he is at preſent Half Mayor at leaſt.*

LONDON: Printed for A. MOORE, near St. *Paul*'s Church. MDCC XIX.

LETTER

A LETTER TO *W------ B------n*, Esq; *&c.*

SIR,

IT has just now taken me in the Head to answer the Letter which you writ to me some Years ago about *Sweden*, and *Minehead*, and Passive-Obedience, and the like momentous merry Points. I would not have you wonder at my Travelling into Print and the Publick; since, instructed by a few Books, and aided by other good Assistance, I have as uncon-

troulable a Right to be an Author, as any Letter-Writer whatſoever.

It is like you might not have heard from me ſo ſoon, had not the diſmal Death of that Father of his Country, the King of *Sweden*, of indefeaſible Memory, which hath affected both the State and the Stocks, had its Effects alſo upon me.

I own, I am greatly grieved that His Sacred Majeſty ſhould die at this time of day; or, indeed, *at all*; for he was a Prince of pretty Parts, and could make himſelf obey'd. It was oppoſite to the Rules of good Fellowſhip to leave us in the *Chriſtmaſs*-Holidays. But by this may be ſeen the Fate of thoſe who will be prophanely following their *Trade* during a Seaſon which is conſecrated to the *pious* Uſes of Mirth and Wantonneſs.

To alleviate my Grief on this Occaſion, I have choſen a Remedy much in Uſe, to write a Letter and caſe my Heart to my *Friend*; and the rather, becauſe I divert my ſelf, and pay a Debt at the ſame Time.

Let ſo much ſerve for an Introduction.

When I first heard you were promoted, I could not help thinking that you got your Place by the ſame Merit by which I was preferr'd to a Wife, *viz.* becauſe I would have her, and ſcorn'd to accept of any Denial. And, indeed, this very Reaſon runs away with more Preferments than any other good Quality between *London* and *Stockholm*. A Man's Sufficiency may appear moſt plainly to himſelf, and yet all his Fellow-Men may be moſt ignorant of it.

But this is not altogether my Caſe. I am a Tall Man, as any one may ſee that looks at me; and I thought that Seven Foot of Height was a Piece of Worth ſufficient to enſnare any Widow's Heart in *Great Britain*; and to *One* it prov'd ſo: She ſaw me, and ſtar'd, and wanted to be *better acquainted*. Stature and Monoſyllables did my Buſineſs, and my Advancement was as little indebted to Speech-making, as is your own.

This is a ſummary Account of the Leap I made into the Arms and Eſtate of a rich Relict.

And

And when I had ſecur'd my Stand
Upon a Widow's Jointure-Land,

I took another Spring, and vaulted into the Parliament-Houſe, from whence I looked wiſhfully towards a Place; for when a Man is ſeiz'd with an Itch of riſing, he ſometimes climbs ſo high, that loſing his hold of Innocence and Safety, he endangers that Part of his Body which is higher than any Part of his Body.

But neither was this my Caſe; and I wiſh, dear Brother-Writer, and Fellow-Climber, it does not prove yours: And yet I am not us'd to wiſh or pray without ſufficient Cauſe me thereunto moving.

I am told, the eſſential Qualifications for any Poſt, are Two, Ability and *another*: But this latter is, it ſeems, reckon'd by many an Obſtacle to the Art of Thriving; however, I pray God to ſend it you, when he thinks fitting.

If reſtleſs Buſtling and Undermining, and unrebuffable Application, may entitle a Man to a Place, you have certainly deſerved yours; nay, you have purchas'd it: For you puſh'd, and ask'd, and pocketed Indignities,

dignities, till you had got a good Place, and a Patent for a Better, *to the Amazement of every Body, and all the World beſides*; as an Eloquent Member of the Houſe of Commons worded it once upon a Time.

You are now, Sir, got upon a pretty high Point, where Stumbling may be dangerous. For your Security, therefore, and for the better forming of your Behaviour, I beg Leave to lay before you a ſhort Portion of Secret Hiſtory; from whence, if you mind it well, you may draw good Inſtruction. The Authors from whom I take it, are unknown to you; but however, following your Example, I will name them; and they are theſe Two, *Vitruvius Nothus*, and *Benjius Brotherus*. I can ſay nothing of their Reputation; but pray hear the Tale.

Count *Suderkoping*, a *Swediſh* Lord, had ſeveral Seats and Lodges, which requiring frequent Alterations and Repairs from time to time, proper Artificers and Workmen were conſtantly employ'd about them; more principally and particularly Three, a *chief* Maſon, a *chief* Carpenter, and a *Layer* of Bricks. The firſt, *Mungo Jack-*

 berg;

berg; another was *Joſſe Erickſon*; and the Third was *Hugo Vunter*. Over all theſe was placed *Cnute Torkel*, *Inſpector of the Labourers*. This diſcerning Perſon running violently at Money and Fame, told the Count, That whereas his Lordſhip's Houſes coſt him ſo much Yearly, he had got a Couple of underſtanding Workmen, who would keep them in good Caſe for half of the ſaid ſo much. The Undertakers, he told them, were the ſaid *Joſſe* and *Mungo*; and read to the Count the Articles upon which he ſaid they had agreed to keep all his Seats in Repair, during Three Years to come, for the Sum of Twelveſcore Pounds *per Annum*; which ſeem'd but ſmall, in compariſon with what they had coſt for ſome foregoing Years.

Theſe Articles therefore pleas'd; but all this while honeſt *Mungo* and *Joſſe* knew not one Word of the Matter; for *Cnute Torkel*, who carries Maſons and Carpenters, and moſt other Trades in the Belly of him, had carried on this fine ſaving Scheme by himſelf, for Reaſons which will be ſeen preſently.

But it was now Time to tell the Contractors what they had contracted; and

when he had ſufficiently gain'd their Hearts by many fine Stories and fine Treats, he open'd the Project, and perſuaded the honeſt *blind* Men to do that which they had already, unknown to themſelves, articled to do; and even to go a long Step further, and make over by a Deed in Writing, all their Right and Intereſt in the ſaid Articles (when executed) to himſelf the ſaid *Torkel*. So that he himſelf was now the only Undertaker of the Repairs.

But ſtill they had not ſign'd the firſt Agreement, tho' they had aſſented to it; and now that they began to reflect, they began to heſitate. The Houſes were already in ſuch good Caſe, that in Three or Four Years they were like to demand little or no Repairs at all, and conſequently *Torkel* would have all the Money given for that Uſe to himſelf; and ſhould any of the Houſes fall through his Neglect or Avarice, they who had contracted, and not he, were to make them good.

When *Torkel* perceived this Backwardneſs in *Joſſe* and *Mungo* to fall into his Meaſures, he ſaid the moſt plauſible Things to remove their Objections, and alter their Minds; and beſides all this, he offer'd them

Twenty Pounds a Year a-piece, by way of Hush-Money, and in Consideration of their Compliance. At this Bait they began to bite, which rejoiced his Heart; and to over-reach them thoroughly, he craftily dealt with them apart, in the manner following.

Says he to *Mungo*; *Mr.* Jackberg, *in Regard of my better Value for you, and of your better Worth, you shall have Thirty Pounds a Year, that is Ten more than I give to* Erickson: *But pray say nothing to him of it.* Honest *Mungo* promis'd to be silent, and thank'd the bountiful Mr. *Torkel.*

But see the Difficulty of keeping a Secret! *Mungo* no sooner saw *Josse*, but he began to plume and magnify; and *Josse* was given to understand, *that Old Mungo Jackberg, as simple as he stood there, was a prettier Fellow than* Josse Erickson *by Ten Pounds a Year. Ha, ha, ha, cries* Josse, *that's a merry Jest, faith; when I can tell you to your Teeth, that I am a braver Man than your self by just the same Sum, and I will give you Goodman* Torkel's *Word for it; and out he pull'd a Paper sign'd* Torkel, *by which it appeared that* Josse *was actually entitled*

entitled to the Ten Pounds a Year, which Mungo *had only been promis'd.*

This Diſcovery made them ſtare, and they ſtill grew more averſe to ſigning the Agreement which Goodman *Torkel* had made for them with the Count; and utterly refus'd ſigning, when they had read the following Queſtions and Anſwers, which a waggiſh Fellow in the Neighbourhood laid before them.

Queſt. 1. *Whether Goodman* Torkel *meant to ſave to the Count, or to gain to himſelf?*

Anſ. One of them.

Queſt. 2. *Whether his uſing feign'd Names does not betray a ſelfiſh Meaning?*

Anſ. That needs no Anſwer.

Queſt. 3. *Whether he could not have ſaved the Count Money without a Contract?*

Anſ. It is a needleſs Queſtion.

Queſt. 4. *Whether* Swercher Wrecken, *the Old Inſpector of the Labourers, did not*

perform the ordinary Repairs, abſtracted from the extraordinary, or new Works, for much leſs than Twenty Pounds a Month?

Anſ. Old *Swercher* did not underſtand the Play of Booty; and there was Peace among the Count's Workmen in his Days.

Queſt. 5. *Whether* Rodulph Koningſhofen *will not undertake the Repairs for Twelve Pounds a Month?*

Anſ. That would make *Rodulph* too rich.

Queſt. 6. *Why were not Painting, Wainſcoting,* &c. *mention'd in the Contract?*

Anſ. Becauſe they would coſt Money.

Queſt. 7. *Why was* Dannermark *Lodge left out of the Contract?*

Anſ. Becauſe it wanted Repairing.

There are many more of theſe unlucky Queſtions and Replies, which I will not trouble you with: I will only obſerve, that they ſpoil'd the Joke, and marr'd Goodman *Torkel's* Deſign. But there was ano-

another Project of his, with which I muſt acquaint you.

The Count's Gardiner, *Tieffenback*, had, with the Reputation of much Honeſty and Skill, ſerved the Count's Father and Grandfather in the ſame Station: But Goodman *Torkel* was reſolved, for ſuch Reaſons as always ſway him, to weed Old *Tieffenback* out of his Garden, and drive him from his *Eden*, and his Apple-Trees.

In Order to this, he writes the following Letter to the Count.

My LORD,

"THE Expence of your Gardens a-
" mounting yearly to the Sum of
" Two Hundred Pounds, and one *Haquin*
" *Stenchil* having propos'd to me to under-
" take them for Half that Sum; accord-
" ing to my Duty, I acquaint your Lord-
" ſhip with it. And am, *&c.*

It was evident from this Project, that Goodman *Torkel* aim'd at being Principal Gardiner, and *Stenchil* was to have been his chief Digger. But the ſame Wag that writ

writ the Queſtions and Anſwers, ruin'd this Deſign likewiſe, by ridiculing *Torkel's* Schemes, in the following feign'd Epiſtle.

A Letter from Goodman Torkel, *the Projector, to the King of* Sweden.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

" THE Expence of managing your " Royal Treaſury amounting yearly to the Sum of ſeveral Thouſand " Pounds; and I, a Perſon of very good " Fame, and Skill in handling Money, having propos'd to my ſelf to undertake " the ſaid Expence for Half the ſaid Thouſands; according to my Duty to my ſaid " ſelf, I laid the Propoſal before my ſaid " ſelf, who commands me in all Love to " acquaint your Majeſty therewith, and to " obſerve to your Majeſty, that the Charge " of conveying my ſaid ſelf from one " Place to another, is included in this " Propoſal of Mr. *Me*.

" And whereas your Majeſty gives very " great Salaries to your Principal Miniſters " and Secretaries, I can get one *Martin*

" *Scribble*,

" *Scribble*, a Schoolmaſter in *Stockholm*, to
" ſerve your Majeſty as Secretary of State
" for Thirty Pounds a Year. And a diſ-
" banded Purſer and Boatſwain ſhall un-
" dertake the Office of Admiralty for the
" ſame Wages. And I have a Groom
" that will make a very good Maſter of
" the Horſe for Ten Pounds a Year and a
" new Livery.

In this ſneering Way did our Arch Droll diſappoint the tow'ring Intentions of Goodman *Torkel*, the Projector; whoſe Fate at laſt I do not care to tell you, how, while he leap'd at all, he was fruſtrated of all; and, being every Man's Foe, made every Man his Foe: And, in fine,———

As I mean this Story to you for good, it will be none of my Fault, if you do not derive ſome Advantage from it. In order to which, I muſt lay before you another artful Fetch and Strain of Policy in Maſter *Torkel*, as follows.

It was agreed and inſerted in the Articles before-mentioned, That when any Diſpute aroſe about the Repairs, and the manner of making them, Three Perſons were to be appointed Referees for adjuſting ſuch

Diſpute; one to be choſen and named by the Count himſelf, one by Goodman *Torkel*, and one by *Joſſe* and *Mungo*, the Contractors. Can any thing be more plauſible than this, and carry a greater Face of Fairneſs? And yet, dear Sir, I beg you not to be extremely amaz'd to hear that this was the moſt biting Joke that ever you heard. For, as I have told you already, Goodman *Torkel* had, by an Inſtrument in Writing, got the whole Benefit and Right of the Contract made over to himſelf; ſo that he being both Himſelf and the Contractors, was to name Two of the Referees out of the Three, and was therefore ſure of carrying any Point he pleaſed for himſelf againſt the Count.

But this Drift, tho' ſly and well-deſign'd, was ſeen through, and reſented by the Count's *Chief Steward*, the *Caſtellan of Sudermania*; who perceiving the Indignity and Deceit put upon his Maſter, ſet his Heel upon Goodman *Torkel*, and blaſted his Intrigues.

Behold here the Benefit and Bleſſing which accrue to a Great Man from the Integrity and Capacity of a *principal directing* Servant! The *Caſtellan of Sudermania*

mania was a Gentleman of this ſort: The *Greatneſs* of his Heart placed him above practiſing *little Arts*, and the Greatneſs of his Underſtanding above ſuffering them. It was obſerved of him, that he merited Wealth, but deſpis'd it; and neglected his own Intereſt, to attend and advance his Maſter's. Inſomuch, that in a long Train of Years, in which he directed the Affairs of the Count, and thoſe of his Anceſtors, he rewarded himſelf with nothing but Reputation; and tho' he acquir'd infinite Fame, his Fortune felt no Increaſe.

Thus, *Sir*, I have told you a *Swediſh* Story, as you did me formerly: There will be this Difference found between your Epiſtle and mine: That yours would have fitted any other *Tory* as well as me; but mine will match never a *Whig* in *England* ſo well as your ſelf. I have this Opinion of my own Performance, that if you ſhould, in a Pet, call it impertinent, I doubt your Heart will not believe your Mouth.

As to the ſpiteful Story which malicious Report tells of me, how I cut Capers with a Wooden Sword by my Side on a certain Occa-

Occaſion, I deſire you not to credit it; and, in Requital, I ſay nothing of your juſt and honourable Dealings with the ingenious Dr. *Hollen* of *Ailmsbury*; and with honeſt *J----k R---l---y*, who is ſent on a long Errand for your Perſonal Profit.

When you next think fit to abuſe the Clergy in your ſecond *Apology* for the *Cardinal*, pray tell us ſome more Truths concerning your ſelf. We firmly believe that which you have already imparted to us; namely, that you never taught Mankind either Reaſon or Religion; and we are ready to give our Aſſent to every thing elſe you will ſay to the like Purpoſe.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

FINIS.

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